



SERMON STUDY GUIDE

ANSWERS FOR THOSE WHO ASK

May 10 & 11, 2014

Why Does The Church Cause So Much Hurt?

Micah 6:1-8

OPENING QUESTION

In your opinion, what is the greatest hurt the Church has ever caused? Is there an event from history or from your life that comes to mind?

READ TOGETHER

Micah 6:1-8

BIG IDEA

As God's imperfect people, we must humbly own our wrong and humbly do good for others as proof that we truly are God's people.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) As you read Micah 6:1-8, what is it that Micah tells that the Lord requires of us? Translate verse 8 into everyday language – what does it mean to obey that verse?
- 2) Read Isaiah 58:17 and Matthew 23:23-28. Does God/Jesus have any difficulty with pointing a finger at bad religion and calling His people on it? What are some examples of the “bad” practices of which God's people are accused in these passages? Do you see these practices in the practices of God's people today?
- 3) Read Matthew 5:38-45. Reading Jesus' words here, what do you find to be counter-cultural in how Jesus tells His people to live? Is it possible to live this way today?
- 4) Read Jeremiah 29:1-7. What do you hear God saying to the exiles in Babylon about how they should live their lives there while in exile? What would verse 7 look like today if we were to apply it and live it out?
- 5) Read Matthew 5:16 and 1 Peter 2:9 as a group. If you were to draw up a job description for a Christian on the basis of those 2 verses, what would it look like?
- 6) Do you see any Christ-followers around you living out that job description these days? Who comes to mind and how do you see them living?

CHALLENGE

I have a friend who ends the voicemail on his cell phone with the words, *Go and do something good for your city today!* What one thing could you do that would be good for your city this week in fulfillment of the words of Jeremiah 1:7?

PRAYER

Take time to pray and ask God to reveal anything that you've ever been involved in that has caused hurt to someone outside the Church. This could be anyone that you're in relationship with. As God reveals wrong, confess it and then make a plan to go and make it right.

NEXT STEP

If you are enjoying our series *Answers for Those Who Ask*, you may want to dig into a good book on apologetics such as *The Reason for God* by Tim Keller. A worthy read.